

CLAIMS

1. An image pickup equipment, characterized by comprising:

5 an image pickup section which converts input light so as to obtain image data;

 a self-location detecting section which detects a location of the image pickup equipment;

10 a location determining section which determines whether or not the location detected by the self-location detecting section is inside of a predetermined area; and

 an image pickup operation restricting section which restricts an image pickup operation of the image pickup section when the location determining section determines that
15 the location is outside of the predetermined area.

2. The image pickup equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein, the self-location detecting section detects the location in accordance with a state of one or more received
20 waves.

3. The image pickup equipment as defined in claim 2, wherein, the self-location detecting section detects the location in accordance with states of the received waves that
25 are different from each other.

4. The image pickup equipment as defined in any one of claims 1-3, further comprising:

an authorized user identification information storing
5 section which stores authorized user identification information; and

a user identification section which determines whether or not user identification information obtained from a user matches the authorized user identification information,

10 the image pickup operation restricting section not restricting the image pickup operation of the image pickup section whenever the user identification section determines that the user identification information obtained from the user matches the authorized user identification information.

15 5. The image pickup equipment as defined in any one of claims 1-4, wherein, (i) an image-pickup-side device including the image pickup section and the self-location detecting section and (ii) a control-side device including the location
20 determining section and the image pickup operation restricting section are provided as different devices, and the image-pickup-side device and the control-side device are connected to each other over wireless communications.

25 6. An image pickup system, characterized by comprising:

the image pickup equipment defined in any one of claims 1-5; and

a server computer which receives image information from the image pickup equipment.

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7. A method of controlling an image pickup equipment, characterized by comprising the steps of:

(i) detecting a location of the image pickup equipment;

(ii) determining whether or not the location detected in the step (i) is inside of a predetermined area; and

(iii) if it is determined in the step (ii) that the location is outside of the predetermined area, restricting an image pickup operation of an image pickup section which is provided in the image pickup equipment and obtains image data by converting input light.

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8. The method as defined in claim 7, wherein, in the step (i), the location is detected in accordance with states of received waves.

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9. The method as defined in claim 8, wherein, in the step (i), the location is detected in accordance with states of the received waves that are different from each other.

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10. The method as defined in any one of claims 7-9,

further comprising the steps of:

(a) storing authorized user identification information;
and

(b) determining whether or not user identification
5 information obtained from a user matches the authorized user
identification information,

in the step (iii), whenever it is determined in the step (b)
that the user identification information obtained from the
user matches the authorized user identification information,
10 the image pickup operation of the image pickup section not
being restricted.

11. A control program for causing the image pickup
equipment defined in any one of claims 1-5 to operate, the
15 control program causing a computer to function as each of
the sections of the image pickup equipment.

12. A computer-readable storage medium, storing the
control program defined in claim 11.